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14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
15 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

16  
17 IN RE LUMINENT MORTGAGE CAPITAL,  
18 INC. SECURITIES LITIGATION

19 This Document Relates To:

20 ALL ACTIONS  
21  
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23  
24  
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26  
27

C-07-04073 PJH

**CLASS ACTION**

**NOTICE OF MOTION, MOTION,  
AND MEMORANDUM OF POINTS  
AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT  
OF MOTION BY SOUTHERN FOR  
APPOINTMENT AS LEAD  
PLAINTIFF AND APPROVAL OF  
THEIR SELECTION OF LEAD  
COUNSEL**

Date: November 21, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Courtroom 3, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor

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6	Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4) .....	10
7	Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (as amended by the	
8	Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995),	
9	15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3) <i>et seq.</i> .....	<i>passim</i>
10	Securities Exchange Act of 1934,	
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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**TO: ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on November 21, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, The Southern Improvement Company, Allen Dayton, and VSA, Inc. (collectively "Southern" or "Movant") will move before the Honorable Phyllis J. Hamilton, United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, United States Courthouse, Courtroom 3, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, pursuant to § 21D(a)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PSLRA"), and Local Rule 23-1(b), for an order (1) appointing Southern as Lead Plaintiff of the consolidated class actions; and (2) approving Southern's selection of Lowey Dannenberg Bemporad Selinger & Cohen, P.C. ("LDBSC") as Lead Counsel for the Class.

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

Southern respectfully submits this memorandum of law in support of its motion, pursuant to Section 21D(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3), as amended by the PSLRA, and Local Rule 23-1(b), for an order (1) appointing Southern as Lead Plaintiff of the consolidated class action involving Luminent Capital Mortgage, Inc. ("Luminent" or the "Company"); and (2) approving Southern's selection of LDBSC as Lead Counsel for the Class.<sup>1</sup>

Southern Improvement and VSA are private companies owned and controlled by Dayton. During the proposed class period of October 10, 2006 through August 6, 2007 (the "Class Period"), Dayton directed the securities investments by those business entities, as well as the investments in his own account, in Luminent common stock and options. Dayton thus exercises

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<sup>1</sup> On October 10, 2007, the Hon. Phyllis J. Hamilton consolidated for all purposes the six pending class actions under the caption *In re Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc. Securities Litigation*, Case No. C-07-04073-PJH, and directed that the motions for appointment of lead plaintiff initially filed on October 9 be withdrawn and refiled in the consolidated class action no later than October 17, 2007.

1 complete authority over, and is the sole decision maker with respect to, investments of Southern.<sup>2</sup>  
 2 See Declaration of Allen Dayton ("Dayton Decl."), ¶¶ 1-4.

3 Southern purchased 160,778 shares of Luminent common stock during the proposed  
 4 Class Period, at prices ranging from about \$8 to \$10 per share, and suffered losses on those  
 5 shares of \$1,271,011. Movant also sustained net losses of \$199,555 from the sale of put option  
 6 contracts, for a total loss of \$1,470,566. See Southern's Certifications and Loss Analyses,  
 7 annexed as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of David C. Harrison ("Harrison Decl."); Dayton Decl.,  
 8 ¶¶ 6-7.

9 Eight applications for Lead Plaintiff were initially filed on October 9, 2007. Based on  
 10 these submissions, it is indisputable that Southern has the largest financial interest at stake in  
 11 these actions, and it otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
 12 Procedure and the Local Rules. Southern, therefore, is presumptively entitled to serve as the  
 13 Lead Plaintiff that will prosecute the litigation on behalf of investors in Luminent stock and  
 14 options. See *In re Cavanaugh*, 306 F.3d 726, 730-32 (9th Cir. 2002). As demonstrated herein,  
 15 Southern is eminently qualified for that role. Accordingly, Southern should be appointed Lead  
 16 Plaintiff under the PSLRA.

## 17 18 STATEMENT OF FACTS

### 19 A. The Claims

20 Luminent is a real estate investment trust incorporated in Maryland and headquartered in  
 21 San Francisco, California. As an asset management company, Luminent purportedly invests in  
 22 prime whole loans, U.S. agency and other highly-rated, single-family, adjustable-rate, hybrid  
 23 adjustable-rate and fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities, which it acquires in the secondary

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24  
 25 <sup>2</sup> Although comprised of separate entities, Southern is considered as one person for  
 26 purposes of the PSLRA Lead Plaintiff provisions because they are operated under the common  
 27 control and direction of Dayton with respect to security investments. See, e.g., *Aronson v.*  
*McKesson HBOC, Inc.*, 79 F. Supp. 2d 1146, 1157 n.11 (N.D. Cal. 1999); *In re Waste*  
*Management, Inc. Securities Litigation*, 128 F. Supp. 2d 401, 432 (S.D. Tex. 2000).

1 market. The Company profits primarily from the spread between funds borrowed and the yield  
2 on purchased securities. Throughout the proposed Class Period, Luminent made numerous  
3 statements claiming that the high quality of its mortgages, the thoroughness of its due diligence  
4 practices and the sophistication of its hedging program had sheltered the Company from the  
5 difficulties being experienced by other companies in the mortgage lending industry.

6 However, after the close of the market on August 6, 2007, and just one week after  
7 confirming the payment of a second quarter dividend, Luminent issued a press release  
8 announcing that it was suspending the dividend because the Company was experiencing  
9 increased margin calls on its highest quality assets and a decrease in financing by its lenders.  
10 Luminent subsequently announced that it had received default notices from two credit lenders.

11 Following these adverse disclosures, the market price of Luminent stock, which traded at  
12 the \$8-to-\$10-per-share level during most of the proposed Class Period, sharply declined by more  
13 than 75%, from a close of \$4.38 per share on August 6, 2007 to \$1.08 per share on August 7,  
14 2007. Luminent's share price continued to decline the next day, closing at \$0.95 per share on  
15 August 8, 2007.

16 On September 26, 2007, in its SEC Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 30, 2007, the  
17 Company provided further details regarding its liquidity crisis, explaining that (1) it was unable  
18 to roll over approximately \$168.0 million of commercial paper financing; (2) it had received  
19 default notices for eight different credit lines totaling \$1.6 billion; and (3) an event of default had  
20 occurred on Luminent's convertible senior notes of \$90 million and the Company's commercial  
21 paper of \$580 million. The Company also acknowledged, *inter alia*, "significant losses from the  
22 sale of assets at distressed prices to meet margin calls [and] seizure of certain assets by  
23 creditors," that had resulted in "significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a  
24 going concern for a reasonable period of time."

25 **B. The Pending Class Actions**

26 Beginning on August 8, 2007, six securities class action lawsuits were filed in this  
27



District.<sup>3</sup> The initial class notice was also published on August 8, 2007. *See* Exhibit 2 to Harrison Decl. By Order dated September 17, 2007, the Hon. Phyllis J. Hamilton found that the six filed cases were related and should be assigned to her. As noted above, on October 9, 2007, eight applications for Lead Plaintiff were filed in this Court, and on October 10, 2007, the Court consolidated the cases and directed that the motions for Lead Plaintiff be refiled on October 17 under the consolidated case.

The complaints charge Luminent and certain senior officers with, *inter alia*, making false and misleading statements regarding (1) the quality of the Company's investments, (2) the ability of the Company's hedging program to manage interest rate and credit risks in its portfolio, (3) the ability of the Company to maintain its regular dividend payment to shareholders going forward, and (4) the adequacy of the Company's internal and financial controls. In addition, the complaints allege that the Company's statements touting its strong financial position and future business prospects were materially misleading and lacked a reasonable basis.

The complaints name as defendants the Company and certain Luminent senior officers, including Gail P. Seneca (CEO), Sewell Trezevant Moore, Jr. (COO), Christopher J. Zyda (CFO), Eleanor Cornfeld Melton (Chief Credit Officer), Ronald Viera (Chief Risk Officer), and Dimitrios Papatheoharis (Chief Investment Officer). The complaints assert violations of Sections 10(b) (the antifraud provision) and 20(a) (the controlling person provision) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The putative class is comprised of purchasers of Luminent securities from October 10, 2006, the date Luminent announced a public offering of five million shares of common stock,

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<sup>3</sup> The pending cases are: (1) *Leone v. Moore, et al.*, Case No. 07-04073; (2) *Rosenbaum Capital LLC v. Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 07-04096; (3) *Howard J. Kaplowitz IRA v. Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 07-04140; (4) *Elliot Greenberg v. Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 07-04141; (5) *PEM Resources LLP v. Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 07-04184; and (6) *Metzger v. Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 07-04686.



1 through and including August 6, 2007, the date the Company announced it was suspending the  
 2 payment of its second quarter dividend.<sup>4</sup> To date, Southern has adopted this Class Period with  
 3 respect to a class comprised of Luminent securities purchasers and sellers of put option  
 4 contracts.<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Certification of Southern Improvement, ¶ 3; Ex. 1 to the Harrison Decl.

5 As shown in the Certifications, during the Class Period, Southern purchased more than  
 6 160,000 shares of Luminent common stock on the open market and sold put option contracts.  
 7 Total losses sustained by Southern are approximately \$1.47 million calculated on both the LIFO  
 8 and FIFO basis. Southern's losses are substantially greater than the losses claimed by any of the  
 9 competing movants in their initial applications.

10 For all the reasons set forth below, Southern has satisfied the PSLRA's requirements, and  
 11 should be appointed to serve as Lead Plaintiff and its selected counsel approved as Lead Counsel.

## 12 ARGUMENT

### 13 A. Southern Should Be Appointed Lead Plaintiff

#### 14 1. The Procedure Required Under the PSLRA 15 for Appointment of Lead Plaintiff

16 The PSLRA applies to this case. The Ninth Circuit in *Cavanaugh* has interpreted the  
 17 provisions of the PSLRA as setting forth a three-step process by which the District Court is to  
 18 select a lead plaintiff. First, the plaintiff who files the initial action must publish a notice to the  
 19 class, within 20 days of filing the action, informing class members of their right to file a motion  
 20

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21 <sup>4</sup> While two of the complaints allege shorter class periods, four of the six complaints use  
 22 the longer proposed class period starting on October 10, 2006.

23 <sup>5</sup> A put option is a financial contract in which the buyer pays the seller an agreed-to sum  
 24 (the premium) in exchange for the right to sell a specified quantity of stock for a certain price  
 25 (the strike price) to the option seller during the life of the option. If the buyer exercises the  
 26 option, the seller is under a contractual obligation to purchase the underlying stock at the strike  
 27 price. "Thus, a put option seller generally predicts that the value of the underlying stock will  
 28 remain above the strike price (or increase) during the life of the option. If correct, the seller  
 profits the full premium because the buyer never exercises the option." *In re Scientific-Atlanta,*  
*Inc. Sec. Litig.*, Case No. 01-1950, 2007 WL 2683729, at \*8 (N.D. Ga. Sept. 7, 2007).

1 for appointment as lead plaintiff within 60 days of publication of the notice. 306 F.3d at 729  
 2 (citing 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)). Here, the initial notice was published on August 8, 2007.  
 3 See Ex.2 to the Harrison Decl. Within 60 days after publication of the notice, any “person” or  
 4 “group of persons” who are members of the proposed class may apply to the court to be  
 5 appointed as lead plaintiff, regardless of whether they have previously filed a complaint in the  
 6 action. The application of Southern has been timely filed within this 60-day period.

7 Second, the district court must consider the losses allegedly suffered by the various  
 8 movants and select as the presumptive Lead Plaintiff the one “who has the largest financial  
 9 interest . . . [and] otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
 10 Procedure.” *Cavanaugh*, 306 F.3d at 730 (quoting 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(i)).<sup>6</sup>

11 The *Cavanaugh* court cautioned that a “straightforward application of the statutory  
 12 scheme . . . provides no occasion for comparing plaintiffs with each other on any basis other than  
 13 their financial stake in the case.” 306 F.3d at 732. In making this inquiry, the Court should rely  
 14 on the movant’s complaint, certification and other submissions. *Id.* at 730 (citing *In re Cendant*  
 15 *Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 264 F.3d 206, 264 (3d Cir. 2001)).

16 Third, “[o]nce that comparison is made and the court identifies the plaintiff with the  
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18 <sup>6</sup> The PSLRA sets forth the following standard:

19 [T]he court shall adopt a presumption that the most adequate  
 20 plaintiff in any private action arising under this [Act] is the person  
 or group of persons that –

21 (aa) has either filed the complaint or made a motion  
 22 in response to a notice . . . [within 60 days of  
 publication of the notice];

23 (bb) in the determination of the court, has the  
 24 largest financial interest in the relief sought by the  
 class; and

25 (cc) otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23  
 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

27 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii).

largest stake in the litigation, further inquiry must focus on that plaintiff alone and be limited to determining whether he satisfies the other statutory requirements,” in particular, typicality and adequacy under Rule 23. *Id.* at 732. As shown below, under these standards, Southern should be appointed as Lead Plaintiff.

**2. Southern Has Timely Moved  
for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff**

The 60-day period under the PSLRA in which motions for the appointment of Lead Plaintiff must be filed expired on October 9, 2007. Southern timely moved within the statutory 60-day period, and has timely refiled its motion pursuant to the Court’s October 10 order. As required by the PSLRA and Local Rules, Southern has also provided certifications setting forth its transactions in Luminent securities (*i.e.*, common stock and options) during the Class Period. *See* Certifications, Ex. 1 to the Harrison Decl. The certifications indicate that Southern has reviewed a complaint filed in the actions (*i.e.*, the *Metzger* complaint), understands the responsibilities of serving as Lead Plaintiff, and is willing to serve in the best interests of the class. *Id.* In addition, Southern has retained competent and experienced counsel. *See* LDBSC Firm Resume, Harrison Decl., Ex. 3; Dayton Decl. ¶ 9. Movant’s choice of counsel, LDBSC, has a history, as amply demonstrated in its Firm Resume, of achieving superior results for class members in similar securities fraud class actions.

**3. Southern Has the Largest Financial  
Interest in the Relief Sought by the Class**

Southern is presumptively the most adequate plaintiff for the reasons set forth below and because, based upon a comparison of the losses of the movants who filed applications for Lead Plaintiff on October 9, 2007, it has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the Class of any class member that has moved to be designated Lead Plaintiff. While the Ninth Circuit has not established a mandatory formula to use in determining which plaintiff has the “largest financial interest,” many district courts have adopted the approach articulated by the Third Circuit in *Cendant*, which set forth three factors bearing on that determination: (1) the number of

1 shares purchased, (2) the total net funds expended by the plaintiffs during the class period, and  
 2 (3) the approximate losses suffered by the plaintiffs. *See In re Impac Mortgage Holdings, Inc.*  
 3 *Sec. Litig.*, No. 8:06-00031, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40607, at \*10 (C.D. Cal. May 2, 2006)  
 4 (citing *Cendant*, 264 F.3d at 262); *In re Surebeam Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. 03-01721, 2003 WL  
 5 5159061 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 5, 2004); *In re Critical Path, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 156 F. Supp. 2d 1102,  
 6 1107-08 (N.D. Cal. 2001) (“largest financial interest” equates with amount of potential recovery,  
 7 number of shares purchased, and estimated losses); *Siegall v. TIBCO Software, Inc.*, No. C 05-  
 8 2146, 2006 WL 1050173 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 24, 2006) (same).

9 As reflected in its Certifications and Loss Analyses, Southern purchased 160,778 shares  
 10 of Luminent common stock and expended \$1,412,711 in net funds during the proposed Class  
 11 Period.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, Southern sustained total losses of approximately \$1.47 million on both a  
 12 FIFO and LIFO basis relating to its stock and options transactions. Southern thus has a  
 13 significant financial interest in the outcome of this litigation.

14 Based upon a review of the other applications filed on October 9, 2007, Southern’s  
 15 losses, and therefore its financial interests, are substantially larger than those of any competing  
 16 lead plaintiff movant. Accordingly, Southern should be designated the presumptive Lead  
 17 Plaintiff. *See Cavanaugh*, 306 F.3d at 729-30; *In re Wireless Facilities, Inc. Sec. Litig. II*, No.  
 18 07-482, 2007 WL 2300861 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 8, 2007); *Gerin, et al. v. Aegon USA, Inc.*, No. 06-  
 19 5407, 2007 WL 108451, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 10, 2007); *Aronson v. McKesson HBOC, Inc.*, 79  
 20 F. Supp. 2d at 1152.

21 Therefore, Southern is presumptively the movant entitled to appointment as Lead Plaintiff  
 22 pursuant to PSLRA § 21D(a)(3)(B)(iii).

#### 23 **4. Southern Otherwise Satisfies the Requirements of Rule 23**

24 In addition to possessing the largest financial interest in the outcome of the litigation, the  
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26 <sup>7</sup> Southern also received \$33,185.40 in premiums in connection with the sale of 340 put  
 27 options and 326 call options on Luminent shares.

1 lead plaintiff must also “otherwise satisf[y] the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of  
2 Civil Procedure.” § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii). Rule 23(a) provides that a party may serve as a class  
3 representative if the following four requirements are satisfied: (1) the class is so numerous that  
4 joinder of all members is impracticable; (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the  
5 class; (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses  
6 of the class; and (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the  
7 class.

8 Of these prerequisites to class certification, only typicality and adequacy are relevant in  
9 appointing the Lead Plaintiff. *Cavanaugh*, 306 F.3d at 729-30; *In re Wireless Facilities*, 2007  
10 WL 2300861, at \*1; see also *Teamsters Local 617 Pension and Welfare Funds v. Apollo Group*.  
11 *Inc.*, No. 06-2674, 2007 WL 2692217, at \*4 (D. Ariz. Sept. 11, 2007) (“The court will limit its  
12 analysis under Rule 23 because ‘[a] wide ranging analysis is not appropriate to determine  
13 whether [the proposed lead plaintiff] has made a prima facie showing that [it] satisfies the  
14 requirements of Rule 23’”) (quoting *Tanne v. Autobytel, Inc.*, 226 F.R.D. 659, 666 (C.D. Cal.  
15 2005)). Consequently, courts deciding a lead plaintiff motion limit their inquiry to the typicality  
16 and adequacy prongs of Rule 23(a), and defer examination of the remaining requirements until a  
17 class certification motion is filed. *Cavanaugh*, 306 F.3d at 732; *Takeda v. Turbodyne*  
18 *Technologies*, 67 F. Supp. 2d 1129, 1136 (C.D. Cal. 1999). That determination is based upon the  
19 presumptive lead plaintiff’s sworn certification, declaration, and other submissions. *Cavanaugh*,  
20 306 F.3d at 730.

21 Under Rule 23 (a)(3), the claims of the representative parties must be typical of the class.  
22 Typicality exists where, as here, the plaintiffs’ claims arise from the same series of events and are  
23 based on the same legal theories as the claims of the other class members. *See, e.g., Hanlon v.*  
24 *Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1019 (9th Cir. 1998). The requirement that the proposed class  
25 representative’s claims be typical of the claims of the class does not mean, however, that the  
26 claims must be identical. Typicality does not require that there be no factual differences between  
27



1 the class representatives and the class members, because it is the generalized nature of the claims  
2 asserted which determines whether the class representatives are typical.

3 Southern satisfies the typicality requirements of Rule 23 because, like all other class  
4 members, it: (1) purchased Luminent stock and sold put option contracts at prices artificially  
5 inflated by the false and misleading statements issued by defendants<sup>8</sup>; (2) has claims that arise  
6 out of the same course of events; and (3) suffered damages when Luminent's true condition  
7 became known to the marketplace, causing the prices of Luminent stock and put options to  
8 decline. *See Hanon v. Dataproducts Corp.*, 976 F.2d 497, 508 (9th Cir. 1992); *Impac Mortgage*  
9 *Holdings, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40607, at \*17. Thus Southern meets the  
10 typicality requirement, as questions of liability are common to all proposed class members.

11 Under Rule 23, the representative party must also "fairly and adequately protect the  
12 interest of the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4). The PSLRA directs the court to limit its inquiry  
13 of the movant's adequacy to represent the class to the following: (1) the absence of potential  
14 conflict between the proposed lead plaintiff and the class members; and (2) the class  
15 representative's choice of counsel who is qualified, experienced, and able to vigorously conduct  
16 the proposed litigation. *See, e.g., In re Emulex Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 210 F.R.D. 717, 720 (C.D. Cal.  
17 2002); *Gerin v. Aegon USA, Inc.*, 2007 WL 108451, at \*4.

18 Southern is an adequate class representative because its interest in aggressively and  
19 vigorously pursuing the claims against defendants is aligned with the interests of the members of  
20 the class, who similarly suffered losses because of defendants' misrepresentations. Further, there  
21

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22 <sup>8</sup> As with the purchase of common stock, the sale of a put option is an investment  
23 seeking to capitalize upon an increase in the price of the Company's common stock. *See In re*  
24 *Scientific-Atlanta*, 2007 WL 2683729, at \*8 ("A put options seller, like the purchaser of stock,  
25 generally profits only when a stock maintains or increases its value. That is so because the  
26 option buyer has no reason to exercise the option unless the stock price declines. If the stock  
27 price maintains or increases, and the option expires without the buyer electing to exercise, then  
the seller profits the premium paid for the option. [. . .] The put option seller also suffers a harm  
similar to that suffered by a stock investor when the revelation of the truth concerning the prior  
fraudulent conduct causes an artificially inflated stock price to fall. In such a case, the put option  
seller is forced to bear the brunt of the injury cause by the fraud"). (Emphasis added.)

1 is no antagonism between Southern's interests and those of the other members of the class.  
 2 Indeed, Southern's interests are precisely aligned with members of the class because they both  
 3 purchased Luminent stock and/or sold put options contracts and were damaged by the  
 4 defendants' conduct. Southern has also demonstrated its intention to take an active role in the  
 5 litigation by working closely with its counsel to achieve the best possible result for the class. *See*  
 6 Dayton Decl. ¶¶ 9-11.

7 Finally, as shown below, Southern's proposed lead counsel is highly qualified,  
 8 experienced and able to conduct this complex litigation in a professional manner. Thus,  
 9 Southern is the most adequate lead plaintiff in this case.

10 **B. Southern's Selection of LDBSC**  
 11 **As Lead Counsel Should Be Approved**

12 The PSLRA grants the Lead Plaintiff the right to choose and retain counsel, subject to  
 13 Court approval. § 21D(a)(3)(B)(v). *See Cavanaugh*, 306 F.2d at 734 ("the Reform Act clearly  
 14 leaves the choice of class counsel in the hands of the lead plaintiff"). Here, Southern has selected  
 15 LDBSC to act as Lead Counsel for the Class, based on LDBSC's experience and excellent track  
 16 record in representing VSA as a class member in another class action. *See* Dayton Decl. ¶ 9.<sup>9</sup>  
 17 LDBSC is among the preeminent plaintiffs' class action law firms, having taken leading roles in  
 18 numerous important actions on behalf of defrauded investors. *See* Firm Resume, Ex. 3 to  
 19 Harrison Decl. LDBSC has been recognized recently as appropriate lead counsel in cases  
 20 brought since the passage of the PSLRA, including its recent appointment as Lead Counsel in  
 21 another securities class action lawsuit pending in this District, *Garber v. Juniper Networks, Inc.*,  
 22 2006 WL 3365547 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2006). Harrison Decl. ¶ 4. LDBSC has also previously  
 23 served as lead counsel in other such cases in this Court. *E.g., In re Oracle Securities Litigation*,  
 24 852 F. Supp. 1437, 1454 (N.D. Cal. 1994).

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25  
 26 <sup>9</sup> LDBSC's retainer letter is available for *in camera* inspection upon request by the  
 27 Court.



**CONCLUSION**

For all the reasons stated above, Southern respectfully requests an order (1) appointing it as Lead Plaintiff for the Class, and (2) appointing its choice of counsel, Lowey Dannenberg Bemporad Selinger & Cohen, P.C., as Lead Counsel for the Class.

Date: October 17, 2007

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